

CLAIMS

1. A hearing aid or a hearing aid component for placement in an auditory canal and/or in or behind an auricle of a wearer, having a biofilm-inhibiting coating of an inorganic condensate modified with organic groups on the basis of a coating composition, the biofilm-inhibiting coating including a hydrolysate or pre-condensate of at least one hydrolysable compound with at least one non-hydrolysable substituent, wherein the organic groups of the condensate include at least one part of fluorine atoms and/or copper or silver colloids in the biofilm-inhibiting coating.

2. The hearing aid or a hearing aid component as set forth in claim 1, wherein the hearing aid or a hearing aid component has coated parts, and wherein at least the coated parts are made of a synthetic.

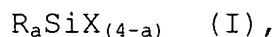
3. The hearing aid or a hearing aid component as set forth in claim 2, wherein the synthetic is a polymethylmethacrylate.

4. The hearing aid or a hearing aid component as set forth in claim 1, further including otoplastics, wherein the

otoplastic is a base coating under the biofilm-inhibiting coating.

5. The hearing aid or a hearing aid component as set forth in claim 1, wherein the hydrolysable compounds include at least one hydrolysable silanes with at least one non-hydrolysable substituent.

6. The hearing aid or a hearing aid component as set forth in claim 1, wherein the hydrolysable compounds include at least one silanes according to the general formula (I)

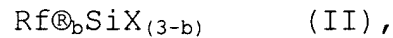


wherein the residues R are analogous or different and represent non-hydrolysable groups, the residues X are analogous or different and represent hydrolysable groups or hydroxyl groups and a has a value of 1, 2 or 3.

7. The hearing aid or a hearing aid component as set forth in claim 1, wherein the hydrolysable compounds include at least one silanes that exhibit at least one non-hydrolysable residue, including a functional group.

8. The hearing aid or a hearing aid component as set forth in claim 7, wherein the at least one non-hydrolysable residue is a carbon-carbon double bond.

9. The hearing aid or a hearing aid component as set forth in claim 1, wherein the hydrolysable compounds include at least one silanes of the general formula (II)



wherein the residues R are analogous or different and represent non-hydrolysable groups, the residues X are analogous or different and represent hydrolysable groups or hydroxyl groups, Rf is a non-hydrolysable group that exhibits 1 to 30 fluorine atoms bound to carbon atoms, and b is 0, 1 or 2.

10. The hearing aid or a hearing aid component as set forth in claim 1, wherein the coating composition includes copper or silver compounds.

11. The hearing aid or a hearing aid component as set forth in claim 10, wherein the coating composition is copper or silver complex compounds

12. The hearing aid or a hearing aid component as set forth in claim 1, wherein the coating composition has nanoscale inorganic particles therein.

13. The hearing aid or a hearing aid component as set forth in claim 1, wherein the biofilm-inhibiting coating is made by applying the coating composition to at least a portion of a surface of the hearing aid or component of the hearing aid and by heating..

14. The hearing aid or a hearing aid component as set forth in claim 1, wherein the biofilm-inhibiting coating is made by applying the coating composition to at least a portion of a surface of the hearing aid or component of the hearing aid and by treating it with radiation.

15. The hearing aid or a hearing aid component as set forth in claim 10, wherein the copper or silver compounds in the coating composition are converted to copper or silver colloids through heat.

16. The hearing aid or a hearing aid component as set forth in claim 11, wherein the copper or silver compounds in the coating composition are converted to copper or silver colloids through radiation treatment.

17. The hearing aid or a hearing aid component as set forth in claim 1, wherein the biofilm-inhibiting coating is obtained by applying the coating composition having a copper or silver compound therein, and by heating under formation of the copper or silver colloid-containing coating.

18. The hearing aid or a hearing aid component as set forth in claim 1, wherein the biofilm-inhibiting coating is obtained by applying the coating composition having a copper or silver compound therein, and by radiating under formation of the copper or silver colloid-containing coating.

19. The hearing aid or a hearing aid component as set forth in claim 1, wherein a portion of the organic groups of the condensate includes fluorine atoms and copper or silver colloids within the coating.